Down to the reign of Nero all the glass made at Rome was in the form of articles of luxury and the famous lachrymatory vases, and all colored. In his reign, however, white crystal glass was invented; and Pliny tells us that the emperor gave six thousand sestertia, or about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for two cups of crystal glass. Later, during the reign of Severus, the glass-makers had acquired such great wealth, and their industry had assumed such gigantic proportions, that the emperor imposed a tax on them. Many writers seem to think this was the principal cause of their deserting Rome for Venice. The glass-houses of Venice were and are to this day all situated on the island of Murano. In Howell's Familiar Letters, under the date of May 30, 1621, we find the following quaint observation on the glass-making at Murano: "Among other little gentle islands which attend the city of Venice, there is one called Murano, about the distance of a little mile, where crystall Glasses are made, and 'tis a rare sight to see a whole street, where on one side there are about twenty furnaces at work perpetually, both day and night. It hath bin observed and tryed that if one shoed remove a furnace from Murano to Venice herself, — nay, to the other side of the street, — and use the same men, materialls, and fuel, and the same kind of furnace ev'ry way, yet one cannot be able to make cristall Glassse in the same perfection, for bewty and lustre, as they do at Murano; and the cause they allledg is the qualitie and cleerness of the circumambient air which hangs ore the place, and favoureth the manufacture, which air is purified and attenuated by concurrent heats of so many furnaces together, which never extinguish, but are like the vestal fyres that allways burn."

The government offered peculiar encouragement to all who would engage in the art of glass-making; and it is no doubt due to this fact that Venice, although not the only place by any means where glass was made during the Middle Ages, was at least the leader in the art. For example, it conferred the title of "gentleman" on all the artisans in the glass houses, and Baron von Souher states in his "Analysis of Nobility in its Origin" that "so useful were the glass-makers at one period in Venice, and so considerable the revenue accruing to the republic from their manufacture, that to encourage the men engaged in it to remain in Murano, the Senate made them all burgesses of Venice, and allowed nobles to marry their daughters; whereas if a nobleman marry the daughter of any other tradesman, the issue is not reputed noble."

From Rome and Venice the art of glass-making was introduced into all the countries of Europe; but during the dark ages, like all the other arts, it was very much at a stand still. The art, however, was not entirely abandoned, but was kept alive in some of the monasteries; for it was some time during the sixth century that glass first came to be used in windows. During this century we know that windows of colored glass set in marble frames existed both at St. Sophia, at Constantinople, and in St. Peter's, at Rome. Later in 709, Wilfrid, Bishop of York, invited workers in glass from France, no doubt in order to construct windows in his cathedral church.

**Base Ball.**

THE season for out-of-door athletics is again at hand, and it remains to be decided whether the Institute shall be well represented on the diamond field this year. Already a considerable number of applications for positions on the nine has been received by the secretary of the Athletic Club, and notices have been posted appointing regular hours for daily practice. Owing to inclement weather, no systematic work has yet been entered on, although every suitable day has seen a good number of men on the practice ground.

It must be conceded that, apparently, the disadvantages afforded by our institution for the maintenance of a first-class ball team considerably exceed the advantages, in comparison with those of the ordinary college. Our students are supposed to come here for work, and by some